

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

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INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

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AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, GW

SUBJECT: PREVIEW DGB CONVENTION--POLICY ON THE EC AND

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ETUC.

REF: BONN 8390

1. SUMMARY. THE DGB WILL LIKELY REITERATE ITS STRONG SUPPORT FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INTEGRATION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND FOR STRENGTHENING THE NEW EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (ETUC) AT ITS 10TH TRIENNIAL CONVENTION IN HAMBURG MAY 25 TO 31. END SUMMARY.

2. THE DGB CONVENTION'S RESOLUTION COMMITTEE HAS APPROVED A COMPREHENSIVE POLICY STATEMENT ON POLITICAL INTEGRATION, EC ENERGY POLICY, EMPLOYMENT POLICY, MIGRANT AND FOREIGN LABOR, LABOR RELATIONS, AND THE ROLE OF LABOR IN THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION.

A) POLITICAL INTEGRATION. THE DGB CONTINUES TO STRONGLY SUPPORT THE EFFORTS OF EC MEMBER COUNTRIES TO ACHIEVE A EUROPEAN POLITICAL UNION BASED ON DEMOCRACY, FREEDOM OF BELIEF, FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE AND INFORMATION AND DEMOCRATIC CONTROL OF THE PEOPLE BY THE END OF THE DECADE. IT SPECIFICALLY CALLS FOR DIRECT AND GENERAL ELECTIONS OF A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT WITH EXTENDED POWERS AND THE RIGHT TO APPOINT AND TO RECALL THE MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION. THE DGB ALSO CALLS FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION WITH MORE DEMOCRATIC CONTROLS. IT RECOMMENDS THAT THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS SHOULD BE TRANSFORMED INTO A KIND OF EUROPEAN SENATE (SIMILAR TO THE BUNDESRAT IN THE GERMAN FEDERAL STRUCTURE). THE DGB ALSO CALLS FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF THE AUTHORITY OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF AN EQUAL NUMBER OF LABOR AND MANAGEMENT MEMBERS AND WITH PARITY LABOR-MANAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEES TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEMS OF SPECIFIC BRANCHES OF INDUSTRY THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY; THE MEETINGS OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL SHOULD BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

MEMBER GOVERNMENTS SHOULD GRADUALLY TRANSFER THEIR NATIONAL POWERS TO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS WHICH SHOULD BE COMPREHENSIVELY REFORMED TO STIMULATE MORE DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION IN THE EC'S ECONOMIC, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SOCIAL AND POLITICAL DECISIONS.

B) EC ENERGY POLICY. THE DGB RECOMMENDS MORE SOLIDARITY BY EC MEMBER STATES IN IMPLEMENTING A COMMON ENERGY POLICY TO MEET THE CHALLENGE OF THE OIL CRISIS. THE DGB URGES A GRADUAL TRANSFER OF INDIVIDUAL NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENERGY POLICY TO EC PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS, THE COORDINATED CONTROL OF ENERGY SUPPLIES WITHIN THE EC, CONTINUED EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE MORE EFFICIENT UTILIZATION

OF ENERGY RESOURCES AND SUPPLY, THE INCREASED DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR ENERGY AND THE ACCELERATION OF TECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE ENERGY SECTOR. C) EMPLOYMENT POLICY. THE DGB CALLS FOR A COMPREHENSIVE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY PROGRAM TO ACHIEVE FULL EMPLOYMENT AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT LABOR/MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR EACH INDUSTRIAL SECTOR OF THE COMMUNITY. IT ALSO CALLS FOR A RESTRUCTURING OF NATIONAL POLICIES TO A COMMON EUROPEAN COMMUNITY POLICY AND THE DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCING OF EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AID PROGRAMS TO REMEDY STRUCTURAL EMPLOYMENT PROBLEMS. THE DGB ALSO CALLS FOR THE GRADUAL HARMONIZATION OF NATIONAL VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND MANPOWER TRAINING SYSTEMS INTO AN OVERALL EUROPEAN COMMUNITY PROGRAM, INCLUDING THE INTEGRATION OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING INTO AN OVERALL GENERAL EDUCATION SYSTEM AND THE ELIMINATION OF UNILATERAL EMPLOYER CONTROL OF APPRENTICESHIP AND MANPOWER

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D) MIGRANT AND FOREIGN LABOR. THE DGB ADVOCATES AN OVERALL MANPOWER PROGRAM REGULATING THE MOVEMENT OF WORKERS BETWEEN VARIOUS EC COUNTRIES AND JOINT ATTEMPTS TO RESOLVE THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL PROBLEMS OF MIGRANT AND FOREIGN WORKERS AND A SPECIAL EUROPEAN COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM ON MIGRANT LABOR.

E) LABOR RELATIONS POLICY. THE DGB URGES THE APPROVAL OF A EUROPEAN COMMUNITY CORPORATION LAW PROVIDING FOR INCLUDING BOARDS OF SUPERVISORS AND BOARDS OF MANAGEMENT. THE DGB CALLS FOR LABOR/MANAGEMENT CODETERMINATION ON THE BOARDS OF SUPERVISORS ON EUROPEAN CORPORATIONS WITH 1/3 OF THE REPRESENTATIVES NOMINATED BY THE TRADE UNIONS, 1/3 BY STOCKHOLDERS, AND 1/3 TO REPRESENT PUBLIC INTERESTS; RIGHTS OF TRADE UNION REPRESENTATIVES TO OBTAIN COMPREHENSIVE INFORMATION ON THE PLANNING AND OPERATION OF CORPORATIONS UNDER THIS LAW AS WELL AS THE PUBLICATION OF CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL REPORTS SHOULD BE GUARANTEED.

F) MONOPOLY CONTROLS. CARTEL LEGISLATION OF INDIVIDUAL EUROPEAN COMMUNITY GOVERNMENTS AND REGULATION OF MONOPOLIES IN INDIVIDUAL ECONOMIC SECTORS AS WELL AS REGULATION OF INVESTMENT AND TRANSFER OF FUNDS SHOULD BE HARMONIZED.

G) THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION. THE NEW EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (ETUC) AND ITS ROLE IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND OTHER EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS SHOULD BE ENLARGED. THE DGB SUPPORTS FREE TRADE UNIONISM AND CLOSE RELATIONS WITH THE ICFTU AND CREATING AN ETUC ACTION PROGRAM TO DEVELOP COMMON GOALS AND TO

INCREASE ITS EFFECTIVENESS. THE ETUC SHOULD BECOME MORE POLITICALLY ACTIVE AND IT SHOULD INCREASE ITS PERSONNEL AND PUBLIC RELATIONS ACTIVITIES. SPECIAL ETUC COMMITTEES TO DEAL WITH ECONOMIC POLICY, ENERGY POLICY, AND SOCIAL POLICY INCLUDING SPECIAL INITIATIVES ON THE HUMANIZATION OF WORK SHOULD BE CREATED AS WELL AS ON THE PUBLIC SERVICE TO EVALUATE AND REFORM THE ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. A EUROPEAN TRADE UNION INSTITUTE (SIMILAR TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INSTITUTE OF THE DGB--WSI), TO PROVIDE RESEARCH AND TECHNICAL ADVICE FOR THE ETUC SECRETARIAT SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED. THE FUNCTIONS OF THE VARIOUS ETUC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMMITTEES DEALING WITH ECONOMIC AND MANPOWER PROBLEMS IN SPECIFIC INDUSTRIAL SECTORS AND COORDINATION OF THEIR FUNCTIONS WITH THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE SECRETARIATS SHOULD BE DEFINED. THE ETUC INDUSTRIAL COMMITTEES SHOULD WORK TOWARD THE NEGOTIATION OF MULTILATERAL COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS TO REGULATE WORKING CONDITIONS (BUT NOT WAGES) FOR EUROPEAN COMMUNITY CORPORATIONS. THE ETUC SHOULD STRIVE FOR NEW EUROPEAN LEGISLATION PERMITTING MULTILATERAL BARGAINING AND OTHER LABOR RELATIONS ACTIVITIES.

3. COMMENT. AS THE ABOVE RESOLUTIONS WOULD SUGGEST, THE DGB AND ITS AFFILIATES CONTINUE TO STRONGLY SUPPORT THE POLITICAL INTEGRATION OF WESTERN EUROPE. THE DGB AND ITS AFFILIATES PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE EC AND ADVOCATE THAT IT BE STRENGTHENED. NEARLY ALL DGB UNIONS HAVE PRESSED FOR THE FORMATION OF LABOR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES FOR EACH MAJOR INDUSTRIAL SECTOR WITHIN THE EC ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL. MANY OF THE LARGER UNIONS HAVE ASSIGNED THEIR BEST PERSONNEL TO WORK ON EC MATTERS. WILHELM HAFERKAMP, FORMER MEMBER OF THE DGB EXECUTIVE BOARD, SERVES AS VICE PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION, AND DGB TREASURER ALFONS LAPPAS SERVES AS CHAIRMAN OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL. THE DGB CONTINUES TO SYSTEMATICALLY PURSUE AN EXTENSIVE AND HIGH LEVEL DIALOGUE WITH THE TUC AND ITS AFFILIATES IN AN EFFORT TO REMOVE THE NEGATIVE ATTITUDE OF THE TUC TOWARD UK MEMBERSHIP IN THE EC. THIS SUPPORT TAKES ON AN ADDITIONAL SIGNIFICANCE IN VIEW OF THE LEADING ROLES PLAYED BY PROMINENT DGB LEADERS WITHIN THE SPD, THE SENIOR PARTNER IN THE GOVERNMENT COALITION. END COMMENT HILLENBRAND

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